

Najib Wants Performance At Gala Dinner To Reflect ASEAN's New Spirit

Bernama

April 25, 2015

By Balqis Jamaluddin

KUALA LUMPUR, April 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak wants the performance at the Gala Dinner tomorrow to honour ASEAN leaders and delegates to be extraordinary, in reflecting the regional groupings new energy and spirit.

"He gave his 'personal touch' when overseeing preparations for the various performances at the 26th ASEAN Summit, including the Gala Dinner," said National Culture and Arts Department (JKKN) Director-General, Datuk Norliza Rofli said.

She also said the prime minister wanted every performance to have a storyline and related to Malaysia as ASEAN's chair this year.

"Therefore, our challenge is to work on a musical, with singing and dancing at the Gala Dinner of about two hours and in line with ASEAN's development," she told Bernama at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) here, Saturday.

She said Najib, who is hosting the Gala Dinner with his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, also wanted a performance that would strengthen relations among the 10-member ASEAN.

The performance at the Gala Dinner will showcase Malaysia's renowned "Mak Yong," which has been recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), as a world heritage item.

"To make it extraordinary, we have decided to combine the Mak Yong with Opera," Norliza said.

A total of 454 performers from the different ethnic groups in Malaysia and ASEAN member countries will participate in various shows during the 26th ASEAN Summit.

The Gala Dinner will also feature 50 youth percussionists from ASEAN countries.

One performer, Adam Sufrie Roslan, who will feature in a traditional Sarawakian dance with 60 others, said he was excited about performing in front of leaders and delegates from the ASEAN countries.

"As Malaysia is the host of the ASEAN Summit this year, we are proud and excited, and have been practicing for the Gala Dinner performance since March," the JKKN dancer added.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

Source : <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1129387>